

2009 California Quick Collision Facts

During 2009, California had a total of 426,228 traffic collisions: 2,805 fatal; 163,524 injury; and 259,899 property damage only. This is the lowest number of fatal collisions since 1954, which was 2,706 and also the lowest number of injury collisions since 1974, which was 160,370.

There were 1,891 vehicle occupants (excludes bicyclist, pedestrian, motorcyclist/moped, emergency vehicle, and buses) killed with 544 not using safety equipment and 170,128 injured with 9,411 not using safety equipment.

Vehicle occupants killed decreased 3.7% from 2008. Vehicle occupants injured decreased 2.0% over that same year.

On average a traffic collision was reported every one minute and 14 seconds.

On average one person was killed every two hours and 51 minutes as a result of a traffic collision.

On average one person was injured every two minutes and 15 seconds as a result of a traffic collision.

Children under the age of 15 accounted for 19.6% of pedestrian victims and 15.8% of bicycle victims (victims killed and injured).

For each person killed, there were 76 persons injured.

Speed was indicated as the Primary Collision Factor in 29.0% of the fatal and injury collisions.

Fatal and injury truck collisions where the truck driver was at fault was the lowest number since these numbers have been documented with 52 fatal and 2,072 injury collisions.

In 2009, there were 383 motorcyclist victims killed of which 54 did not indicate safety equipment used and 10,478 motorcyclist victims injured of which 1,423 did not indicate safety equipment used.

In 2008, motorcyclist victims reached an all time high of 529 killed and 11,764 injured. Motorcyclists killed in 2009 decreased 27.6% from 2008 and those injured decreased 10.9% over that same year. Licensed motorcycle drivers in 2009 increased 4.1% over 2008.

There were 406 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions of which 270 were the driver at fault. This indicates 66.5% of motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions were at fault.

Of the 406 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions, 134 (33%) were involved in fatal collisions where no other party was involved. The motorcyclist was at fault 93.3% of the time in solo motorcycle fatal collisions.

In 2009, alcohol involved fatal collisions decreased 7.5% and alcohol involved persons killed also decreased 6.8% over the previous year. This is the third year in a row to show a decrease in the number of alcohol involved fatal collision and persons killed in those collisions.

Since 2000, the number of licensed drivers in California has increased 10.7%. Of the licensed drivers in California, 22.7% were under 30 years of age; however, drivers under 30 years of age comprise 34.2% of all drivers in fatal and injury collisions. Drivers at fault under 30 years of age comprise 40.0% of all drivers at fault in fatal and injury collisions.

Since 2000, California's population has increased 11.6%. On average one out of every 12,509 persons living in California was killed in a traffic collision; on an average one out of every 165 persons was injured; and on an average one out of every 79 licensed drivers was involved in a fatal or injury traffic collision.

As a result of the 2,805 fatal collisions, 3,076 persons were killed for an average of 1.1 deaths per fatal collision.

There were 0.95 persons killed and 71.80 persons injured for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel. (These are more commonly known as the mileage death and mileage injury rates.) This is the lowest mileage death and mileage injury rates on record and marks the third year in a row that a new record low rate has been set. Since 2000, the estimated vehicle miles of travel have increased 5.8%.

Hit-and-run was indicated in 9.4% of the fatal and injury collisions.

In 2009, California had three days without a traffic fatality: March 30, June 10, and September 5. Previously, the last day without a motor vehicle traffic fatality was September 12, 2000.